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RUSSIA AS A CHAMPION.

The British conquest of India was openly and frankly commercial. The peninsula had been for ages under alien masters. The Hindoos had paid but little attention to the defensive arts and were overrun in turn by the stronger races. The Mahometan conquest made by the descendants of Tamerlane, established the Mogul empire which the English overthrew. Begun by the East India Company as a commercial enterprise entirely, since the British government took administration away from the company it is believed that the English have been the best masters that have ever ruled India. Anyway there was no pretense of race championship or philanthropy about it and England had to stand criticisms of her methods from quite another point of view.

The Russian conquests that have at last crossed Asia are equally commercial, remarks the Call. They are equally sordid in their motives and have been equally sordid in their motives and have been pushed with equal or greater inhumanity toward the weak peoples that have been ridden down by the Cosacks. There is no reason to believe that humanity has had any more part in them than in the wars of Genghis Khan and Tamerlane. But now Russia assumes a philanthropic attitude and desires to pose as the champion of the white race against the yellow, and makes this appeal to race prejudice to cover a declaration of war upon China. To this end the nagging goes on.

Our dispatches from Peking and St. Petersburg give in detail the effrontery of the measures which Russia proposes as preliminary to the military annexation of China. It is among the world's moral emergencies. What has the yellow race done that calls for a white race champion against it? The yellow races are not threatening white race territory with conquest. They are not in arms against the western powers. They are recognized as members of the family of nations and are represented by ministers to all the leading governments. They are in treaty relations with the rest of the world and in Japan have a civilization higher and in all respects better than that of Russia.

Races, nations and peoples need a champion when they are in peril, when their rights are in danger and their liberty is threatened. None of the white races is in this condition. It is impossible for the yellow race to injure them. What the white race want is that all of the yellow men work out their civilized salvation as the Japanese have done. Then their progress will begin, their wants will increase as they rise in the scale and their trade will invite only the commercial competition of the white nations.

Russia is conducting in this country a hot propaganda for sympathy. The incidents in the history of our civil war are being made much of. One gentleman remembers the czar told him that if England had recognized the Confederacy he would instantly have declared war against Great Britain. That has all the elements of a fairy tale. But taking it for the truth what is the precedent it establishes? English recognition of the Confederacy would have been a move for the dismemberment of the United States. If the czar told the truth about the state policy of Russia a Russian declaration of war against China now would be exactly what English recognition of the Confederacy would have been in 1862. As England is committed to the neutrality and integrity of Chinese territory Great Britain would be justified, on the same grounds, in declaring war against Russia.

It may be safely said that the people of this country do not want Russia as a champion in anything. Nor do we believe that the western nations desire that Russia be promoted to the mastery of the world as will be the case if she annexes China. The Russian system of government is less desirable than the Chinese and still less desirable than the Japanese. If China followed the civilized lead of Japan her reformers and intelligent statesmen will take the lead and the people will be trained in the operation of representative government and institutions. But if China become Russian the administration will be worse than now. Surely there is nothing in the government of European Russia that the nations with parliaments and systems of jurisprudence desire to copy.

Russian reform is out of the question. The autocracy under the thumb of the Holy Synod has stubbornly withstood all pressure of reform. The brains of Russia, represented by Tolstoi are under the ban.

Not content with political persecution, the Holy Synod presumes to shut Russian intelligence out of heaven by the solemn process of excommunication from the orthodox church. Russia in no way represents the civilization, the intelligence, the civic institutions, the aspirations or the religious liberty of the white race and Americans will repudiate at once any such pretense.

CURRENCY REFORM.

It is stated that the Hill currency bill which the house committee on banking and currency has, with only one dissenting vote, reported favorably, is not likely to be passed during the present session of congress, but will probably form the basis of currency legislation next winter. Inasmuch as the committee in question contains several democrats and only one vote was recorded against this report it is not easy to understand why the Hill bill should not be pressed to passage at the present session, says the New York Commercial.

There is no partisan politics in this bill whatever, except perhaps as irreconcilable "die in the last ditch" Bryanites may fancy they detect a faint shadow of some in the clause relating to subsidiary silver coinage. Briefly, it provides for the deposit of customs duties, as well as all other government receipts, in national banks, and it removes the \$3,000,000 limitation on the monthly withdrawal of national bank circulation. It also provides that the secretary of the treasury in his discretion may withdraw from time to time any denominations of silver certificates and United States notes and substitute like amounts of notes of other denominations; and it proposes that the smallest issue of gold certificates shall be ten dollars instead of twenty, as is now the case. It likewise repeals that section of the present national banking act which prohibits national banks from taking out more than one third of their circulation in five dollar notes, and it requires that all national banks having bonds on deposit to secure circulation shall pay each half year a tax of one fourth of 1 per cent upon the average amount of notes in circulation in lieu of the present tax on circulation. Most of these provisions, as will be readily seen relate to matters of public convenience, and all of them must commend themselves to men of sound judgment.

As for the clause relating to subsidiary silver coinage, it simply provides for the recoinage of standard silver dollars, now stored in the treasury, into subsidiary coin to whatever extent the secretary of the treasury may deem necessary to meet public requirements. Rampant silverites—and, of course, owners of silver mines—oppose this clause because they want the government to go into the market and buy silver bullion for subsidiary silver coinage. As of yore, they demand that the government shall "do something for silver." With \$500,000,000 of silver already piled up in the treasury which the public absolutely refuses to use, the senselessness of such a proceeding is obvious.

There is no reason whatever why this bill should not become a law at once. It would afford relief to the government, national banks and the public from a number of annoyances and inconveniences under which they now labor, and it would constitute a token of republican intentions as to a wider measure of currency reform in the future.

JAPAN'S PREPAREDNESS.

Probably the world has never seen preparations for a great war carried on so quietly and secretly, and yet so completely, as is the case in Japan's preparation to meet Russia. During the past few months writes John L. Dearing in The World Today for April, I have often called to mind an incident of eight years ago. I was standing in the tower of the Nagoya Castle looking out over the wide plain surrounding the barracks. I could see large squads of cavalry maneuvering in one direction, in another plain were infantry going through all sorts of tactics, not simply ordinary drill, but scaling high walls and performing various difficult feats, in the distance another squad were building pontoon bridges, and, as I cast my eye over the field alive in all directions with men training, I turned to the Japanese officer standing by my side and remarked: "If you keep on training as enthusiastically as this, you will be able to conquer Russia by and by." The officer looked me up and down, as if deliberating whether he should make reply or not, and then answered me in even more laconic Japanese than the English language permits: "That is what we intend to do."

Soon after the China-Japan war, when Japan entered upon an extensive plan of naval and military expansion, the world said: "She has lost her head. Her victory has puffed her up; why does she not settle down to commercial advancement and educational expansion, instead of wasting her time on military expansion and going about with a chip upon her shoulder?" Time has proved the wisdom of her course. It would seem that Japan saw the future day. Had not Japan begun then her preparation for the present situation she would have found it impossible to meet it in the marvelous way that she is doing. Careful plans for self defense have been maturing from year to year, though, of course, the past year has seen the work of preparation carried on much more rapidly than before.

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Verdict For Passenger.

San Rafael, Cal. Cal. April 14.—After less than one hour's deliberation the jury has awarded James Trunsted a verdict of \$8000 against the North Shore railroad for injuries received by him in the wreck near Point Reyes station June 21, 1903. Verdicts amounting to more than \$20,000 have been recently rendered against the company, and many other suits for damages sustained in the wreck are pending.

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6:10 p.m. Way Points 10:30 p.m.

SEASIDE DIVISION

8:15 a.m. Astoria for War- 7:40 a.m.
11:35 a.m. ten, Flavel Fort; 4:00 p.m.
5:50 p.m. Stevens, Hammond, 10:45 a.m.
and Seaside6:15 a.m. Seaside for War- 12:30 p.m.
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